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Libanii Opera. Recensuit RICHARDUS FOERSTER. Vol. V. Declamationes i–xii. Leipzig: Teubner, 1909.

Foerster, with this volume, begins a series of four that are to be devoted to the more definitely sophistic works of Libanius. The Declamations were more read in the Middle Ages than the Orations and consequently survive in more MSS, and have been more exposed to the carelessness of copyists: the greater the opportunity for emendation. Nor had the editor for this part of his task any MS so trustworthy as the Augustanus and Chisianus had proved for the Orations. He has forsaken the order followed by Reiske, and arranges, according to the subject-matter, first the mythographical, then the historical and ethical compositions, but he has put first of all the *Apology* of Socrates because of its kinship to the Orations. Here Libanius assumes the rôle of a friend of Socrates attacking Anytus. The speech is written with the ardor and the fellow-feeling to be expected from one who was himself an instructor of youth, and Libanius neglects the charge of impiety to defend Socrates from what he thought a graver accusation. Foerster explains certain obscurities in the argument by the theory that Libanius had before him that notorious speech by Polycrates the sophist which Isocrates had attacked, and that he is refuting this speech point by point, though, as the fragments of Polycrates show, he did not follow it slavishly. Here Foerster differs from Dindorf and Cobet. Anthologists and grammarians neglected this *Apology* and it survives in few MSS. Reiske omitted from his collection the declamation that follows, "On the Silence of Socrates," though it was evidently popular. A pupil of Socrates pleads to be allowed to talk with his master in prison, alleging, against the historical evidence, that this privilege was denied to all. The composition bristles with the regular sophistic commonplaces, nightingales and swan songs, Marsyas and Orpheus.

What the readers of Libanius preferred were the mythographical exercises that follow, the speeches of Menelaus and Odysseus to recover Helen, Achilles replying to Odysseus as he might have replied in the Ninth *Iliad*, for the Trojan saga still fascinates beyond every other theme. Orestes defends himself before a jury, Poseidon and Ares bring charge and counter-charge over the death of Halirrhothius, and the volume ends with imaginary speeches by Themistocles and Cimon, which had considerably less vogue. Foerster rejects from the corpus and assigns to Choricius on the grounds of style, the speech of Patroclus, the *Πύτορος λόγος* and the "Apology of a Father." More than once he speaks of forthcoming dissertations, presumably by his pupils, which will support with fuller arguments than he can give his editorial decisions.

The English quotation on p. 451 might have been revised to make sense, and we note that though this is a volume of declamations, "Orationes" appears on the back of the cover.